

CLAIMS

1. A plug for use in restricting air egress from an inflatable thermal blanket through an inlet port, including:
 - a central body having a diameter at least as large as an inside diameter of the inlet port; and
 - a plurality of extensions which extend beyond the central body, at least two of which may be inserted into the inlet port in order to retain the plug over the inlet port and thus restrict an egress of warm air from the blanket.
2. The plug of claim 1 wherein at least one of the extensions is essentially circular.
3. The plug of claim 1 wherein at least one of the extensions is essentially triangular.
4. The plug of claim 1 wherein at least one of the extensions is essentially rectangular.
5. The plug of claim 1 wherein at least one of the extensions is coplanar with the central body formed from a resilient material such that the extensions will return to being essentially after being deformed.
6. The plug of claim 1 wherein at least one of the extensions has a distal end which is not coplanar with the central body.
7. The plug of claim 1 wherein at least one of the extensions has a distal end which is formed at an angle.
8. The plug of claim 1 wherein at least one of the extensions has a distal end which is notched.

- 1 9. The plug of claim 1 wherein the plug is stamped from a sheet of plastic.
- 1 10. The plug of claim 1 wherein the plug is stamped from a sheet of wood pulp product.
- 1 11. The plug of claim 1 wherein the plug includes an even number of opposing
2 extensions.
- 1 12. The plug of claim 11 wherein the plug includes two pairs of opposing extensions.
- 1 13. The plug of claim 11 wherein the plug includes three pairs of opposing extensions.
- 1 14. A plug for use in restricting air egress from an inflatable thermal blanket through an
2 inlet port having an opening therethrough, including:
3 a central body having a diameter which is nearly equal to the diameter of the
4 opening through the inlet port; and
5 a plurality of extensions which extend beyond the central body, at least two
6 of which may be inserted into the inlet port in order to retain the plug over
7 the inlet port and thus restrict an egress of warm air from the blanket.
- 1 15. The plug of claim 14 wherein at least one of the extensions is essentially circular.
- 1 16. The plug of claim 14 wherein at least one of the extensions is essentially triangular.
- 1 17. The plug of claim 14 wherein at least one of the extensions is essentially rectangular.
- 1 18. The plug of claim 14 wherein at least one of the extensions is coplanar with the
2 central body formed from a resilient material such that the extensions will return to
3 being essentially after being deformed.

1 19. The plug of claim 14 wherein at least one of the extensions has a distal end which
2 is not coplanar with the central body.

1 20. The plug of claim 14 wherein at least one of the extensions has a distal end which
2 is formed at an angle.

1 21. The plug of claim 14 wherein at least one of the extensions has a distal end which
2 is notched.

1 22. The plug of claim 14 wherein the plug is stamped from a sheet of plastic.

1 23. The plug of claim 14 wherein the plug is stamped from a sheet of wood pulp
2 product.

1 24. The plug of claim 14 wherein the plug includes an even number of opposing
2 extensions.

1 25. The plug of claim 24 wherein the plug includes two pairs of opposing extensions.

1 26. The plug of claim 24 wherein the plug includes three pairs of opposing extensions.

1 27. A plug for use in restricting air egress from an inflatable thermal blanket through an
2 inlet port having an inner diameter, including:

3 a flange having a diameter which is greater than the inner diameter of the
4 inlet port; and

5 a substantially vertical ring-like wall having an outer diameter that is nearly
6 equal to the inner diameter of the inlet port; and

7 at least two protuberances which extend from the substantially vertical
8 ring-like wall to resist removal of the plug from the inlet port.

- 1 28. The plug of claim 27 wherein at least one of the protuberances have a lower slope
2 to ease insertion of the plug into the inlet port.
- 1 29. The plug of claim 27 wherein at least one of the protuberances have an upper slope
2 to reduce resistance to removal of the plug from the inlet port.
- 1 30. The plug of claim 27 wherein the flange is sufficiently thick to allow a user to
2 comfortably grasp the flange when removing the plug from the inlet port.
- 1 31. The plug of claim 27 wherein at least one of the protuberances are retractable.
- 1 32. A plug for use in restricting air egress from an inflatable thermal blanket through an
2 inlet port, including:
3 a flange having a diameter which is greater than the diameter of the opening
4 of the inlet port; and
5 a substantially vertical ring-like wall having an outer diameter that is nearly
6 equal to a diameter of the inlet port; and
7 threads on the substantially vertical ring-like wall to allow the plug to be
8 screwed into the inlet port.
- 1 33. A plug for closing an air inlet port in an inflatable thermal blanket, the air inlet port
2 including a sheet of material with a substantially circular opening for receiving an
3 air hose nozzle, the plug including:
4 a generally planar sheet of flexible material with a central portion for
5 covering the circular opening; and
6 the generally planar sheet having a plurality of extensions for being flexed
7 to extend into the circular opening and for unflexing to engage an inside
8 surface of the air inlet port material sheet while retaining the central portion

in a location which closes the circular opening.

34. A method for controlling airflow through an inflatable thermal blanket having two or more inlet parts for admitting the airflow into the blanket, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a plug having a diameter substantially as large as an inside diameter of the inlet part and a plurality of extensions which extend beyond the central body;

introducing an airflow into the inflatable thermal blanket through a first inlet part; and

restricting egress of the airflow through a second inlet port by placing the plug over the second inlet port and retaining the plug over the second inlet part by inserting at least two of the plurality of extensions into the second inlet port.

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